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(Original Signature of Member)

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. \_\_\_\_\_

To enforce law and order by establishing a program to authorize, fund, and otherwise assist local Sheriffs' offices in designated counties to provide a second line of defense alongside and in close cooperation with the United States Customs Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to conduct law enforcement operations in their counties along the southern international border of the United States, and to prevent lawlessness in border areas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. McCAUL of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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# A BILL

To enforce law and order by establishing a program to authorize, fund, and otherwise assist local Sheriffs' offices in designated counties to provide a second line of defense alongside and in close cooperation with the United States Customs Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to conduct law enforcement operations in their counties along the southern international



border of the United States, and to prevent lawlessness in border areas.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Border Law Enforce-  
5       ment Act of 2005”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds that:

8               (1) Federal officials do not have sufficient man-  
9       power or resources to prevent criminals, terrorists,  
10      and foreign nationals who have entered the United  
11      States illegally from engaging in criminal activity.  
12      Local and State law enforcement officials are being  
13      overwhelmed by growing lawlessness along our  
14      southern international border.

15             (2) There is a rapidly growing number of armed  
16      and dangerous criminals, violent gang members,  
17      drug smugglers, and potential terrorists entering the  
18      United States illegally over our southern inter-  
19      national border. These criminals are becoming in-  
20      creasingly well organized, trained and equipped, and  
21      in recent months a trend is developing which indi-  
22      cates that the level of violence and the volume of  
23      criminal activity along the Rio Grande is rapidly es-  
24      calating to the level of open warfare between law en-

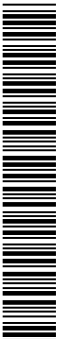


1        enforcement officials and organized criminal narco-ter-  
2        rorists.

3            (3) Federal and State law enforcement officials  
4        have identified an alarming increase in the number  
5        of foreign nationals from countries with known con-  
6        nections to terrorist organizations who are hiding  
7        among an immense and rapidly growing number of  
8        foreign nationals who are entering the United States  
9        illegally.

10          (4) The United States is at war with terrorist  
11        criminal organizations and with individuals from for-  
12        eign nations who are fanatically committed to the  
13        destruction of the United States, who have repeat-  
14        edly demonstrated their ability and willingness to  
15        hide their true identities and their evil purposes, and  
16        who may enter and move about the United States il-  
17        legally and use sneak attacks and any criminal  
18        means or method available to them to cause the  
19        mass destruction of human life in the United States.

20          (5) The peace, security, and well being of the  
21        people of the United States are being placed at  
22        grave risk by the inability or unwillingness of Fed-  
23        eral officials to protect our international borders and  
24        prevent individuals from entering and remaining in  
25        the United States illegally during our war on terror-



1       ists. The lawlessness along our southern inter-  
2       national border is unacceptable, and presents a clear  
3       and present danger to the nation.

4   **SEC. 3. DESIGNATED COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSIST-**  
5       **ANCE PROGRAM.**

6       (a) AUTHORITY AND STATEMENTS OF POLICY.—

7           (1) The Congress recognizes that elected State  
8       and local law enforcement officials are directly ac-  
9       countable to State and local voters. Therefore, by  
10      passage of this Act, Congress reaffirms the residual  
11      full sovereign authority of the States to protect the  
12      lives, safety, and property of the people within their  
13      jurisdiction by preventing and punishing criminal ac-  
14      tivity, subject only to judicial enforcement of min-  
15      imum Federal standards of due process and equal  
16      protection under the 14th Amendment.

17          (2) This Act authorizes the Sheriffs in des-  
18      ignated counties adjacent to the southern inter-  
19      national border area, who are the highest locally  
20      elected law enforcement authority in those areas, to  
21      coordinate law enforcement operations in support of  
22      personnel of United States Customs and Border  
23      Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforce-  
24      ment, to conduct law enforcement operations in the  
25      interior areas in their counties, including the areas



1 on and adjacent to the international border, to en-  
2 sure, as determined by Federal law enforcement offi-  
3 cials, that individuals detained or taken into custody  
4 by the Sheriff are lawfully present in the United  
5 States, and to otherwise authorize Sheriffs to as-  
6 sume full and final sovereign authority to enforce  
7 criminal laws and to protect the peace, safety, and  
8 security of all persons and property in their coun-  
9 ties.

10 (3) The Congress finds that the rapidly esca-  
11 lating lawlessness on our Nation's southern inter-  
12 national border and interior areas adjacent to the  
13 international border, and the inability of Federal of-  
14 ficials to control this lawlessness, make the provi-  
15 sions of this Act reaffirming full sovereign power to  
16 enforce criminal law in State and local officials nec-  
17 essary "to execute the Laws of the Union" and "to  
18 insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common  
19 defense" and to "promote the general Welfare".  
20 Federal officials are directed to implement, enforce,  
21 and carry out vigorously and promptly the intent of  
22 Congress as expressed in this Act.

23 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Designated County Law  
25 Enforcement Assistance program is hereby estab-



1 lished jointly within the Department of Justice and  
2 the Department of Homeland Security in order to  
3 provide immediate and long term financial assistance  
4 and authorization for the law enforcement oper-  
5 ations of Sheriffs in counties adjacent to the south-  
6 ern international border of the United States.

7 (2) DESIGNATED COUNTIES ADJACENT TO THE  
8 SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES DE-  
9 FINED.—In this Act, the term “designated counties  
10 adjacent to the southern international border of the  
11 United States” includes a county any part of which  
12 is within 25 miles of the southern international bor-  
13 der of the United States.

14 (c) AUTHORITY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any Sheriff or coalition or  
16 group of Sheriffs from designated counties adjacent  
17 to the southern international border of the United  
18 States is authorized to perform the following duties  
19 or functions, and shall be promptly paid for the  
20 costs of performing such duties or functions by the  
21 Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
22 curity for any local or State funds previously ex-  
23 pended or proposed to be spent by that Sheriff or  
24 coalition or group of Sheriffs:



1 (A) To conduct law enforcement operations  
2 in the interior areas of their counties on and  
3 adjacent to the southern international border of  
4 the United States in order to enforce criminal  
5 laws, prevent and punish criminal activity, and  
6 protect the lives, property, and security of the  
7 people within the jurisdiction of the Sheriff.

8 (B) To transfer aliens detained or in the  
9 custody of the Sheriff who are not lawfully  
10 present in the United States to appropriate  
11 Federal law enforcement officials.

12 (C) To enforce State and Federal laws re-  
13 lating to controlled substance trafficking and  
14 enforce other State and Federal criminal laws  
15 (other than Federal immigration laws, except as  
16 provided pursuant to a written agreement en-  
17 tered into with the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
18 curity relating to the investigation, apprehen-  
19 sion, or detention of aliens in the United States  
20 (including the transportation of such aliens  
21 across State lines to detention centers) under  
22 section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nation-  
23 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g))) in interior areas  
24 of their counties on and adjacent to the south-  
25 ern international border of the United States.



1           (2) PAYMENT OF COSTS.—Payment of costs  
2       under paragraph (1) shall include payment—

3           (A) for costs of equipping, training, and  
4       otherwise controlling the operation and deploy-  
5       ment of Sheriffs, deputy Sheriffs, reserve dep-  
6       uty Sheriffs, officers, and corrections officers,  
7       as well as the costs of paying overtime to such  
8       officials engaged in duties relating to activities  
9       authorized by this Act or necessary to protect  
10      the lives, safety, and property of persons in  
11      their counties; and

12          (B) for costs of detaining, housing, and  
13      transporting aliens who are not lawfully present  
14      in the United States or who have unlawfully en-  
15      tered the United States at a location other than  
16      a port of entry and who are taken into custody  
17      by the Sheriff.

18          (3) LIMITATION TO FUTURE COSTS.—In no  
19      case shall payment be made under this section for  
20      costs incurred before the date of the enactment of  
21      this Act.

22          (4) ADVANCE PAYMENT OF COSTS.—The Attor-  
23      ney General shall make an advance payment under  
24      this section upon a certification of anticipated costs  
25      for which payment may be made under this section,





1 but in no case shall such an advance payment cover  
2 a period of costs of longer than 3 months.

3 (d) DESIGNATED COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AC-  
4 COUNT.—

5 (1) SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—Reimbursement or  
6 pre-payment under subsection (c) shall be made  
7 promptly from funds deposited into a separate ac-  
8 count in the Treasury of the United States to be en-  
9 titled the “Designated County Law Enforcement Ac-  
10 count”.

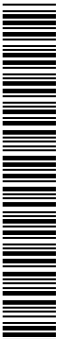
11 (2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—All deposits into  
12 the Designated County Law Enforcement Account  
13 shall remain available until expended to the Attorney  
14 General to carry out the provisions of this Act.

15 (3) PROMPTLY DEFINED.—For purposes of this  
16 Act, the term “promptly” means within 60 days.

17 (e) FUNDS FOR THE DESIGNATED COUNTY LAW EN-  
18 FORCEMENT ACCOUNT.—Only funds designated, author-  
19 ized, or appropriated by Congress may be deposited or  
20 transferred to the Designated County Law Enforcement  
21 Account. The Designated County Law Enforcement Ac-  
22 count is authorized to receive up to \$100 million per year.

23 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds provided under this  
25 section shall be payable directly to participating



1 Sheriff's offices and may be used for the duties and  
2 functions described in subsection (c)(1), including  
3 the costs of personnel (such as overtime pay and  
4 costs for reserve deputies), costs of training of such  
5 personnel, equipment, and, subject to paragraph (2),  
6 the construction, maintenance, and operation of de-  
7 tention facilities to detain aliens who are unlawfully  
8 present in the United States. For purposes of this  
9 Act, an alien who is unlawfully present in the United  
10 States shall be deemed to be a Federal prisoner be-  
11 ginning upon determination by Federal law enforce-  
12 ment officials that such alien is unlawfully present  
13 in the United States, and such alien shall, upon such  
14 determination, be deemed to be in Federal custody.  
15 In order for costs to be eligible for payment, the  
16 Sheriff making such application shall personally cer-  
17 tify under oath that all costs submitted in the appli-  
18 cation for reimbursement or advance payment meet  
19 the requirements of this section and are reasonable  
20 and necessary, and such certification shall be subject  
21 to all State and Federal laws governing statements  
22 made under oath, including the penalties of perjury,  
23 removal from office, and prosecution under State  
24 and Federal law.



1           (2) LIMITATION.—Not more than 20 percent of  
2           the amount of funds provided under this section may  
3           be used for the construction or renovation of deten-  
4           tion or similar facilities.

5           (g) DISPOSITION AND DELIVERY OF DETAINED  
6 ALIENS.—All aliens detained or taken into custody by a  
7 Sheriff under this Act and with respect to whom Federal  
8 law enforcement officials determine are unlawfully present  
9 in the United States, shall be immediately delivered to  
10 Federal law enforcement officials. In accordance with sub-  
11 section (f)(1), an alien who is in the custody of a Sheriff  
12 shall be deemed to be a Federal prisoner and in Federal  
13 custody.

14 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS; EFFECTIVE DATE; AUDIT; SUPPLE-**  
15 **MENTAL FUNDING.**

16           (a) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General and the  
17 Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly issue, on an  
18 interim final basis, regulations not later than 60 days  
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act—

20           (1) governing the distribution of funds under  
21           this Act for all reasonable and necessary costs and  
22           other expenses incurred or proposed to be incurred  
23           by a Sheriff or coalition or group of Sheriffs under  
24           this Act; and



1           (2) providing uniform standards that all other  
2       Federal law enforcement officials shall follow to co-  
3       operate with such Sheriffs and to otherwise imple-  
4       ment the requirements of this Act.

5       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this Act  
6       shall take effect on its enactment. The promulgation of  
7       any regulations under subsection (a) is not a necessary  
8       precondition to the immediate deployment or work of  
9       Sheriffs personnel or corrections officers as authorized by  
10      this Act. Any reasonable and necessary expenses or costs  
11      authorized by this Act and incurred by such Sheriffs after  
12      the date of the enactment of this Act but prior to the date  
13      of the promulgation of such regulations are eligible for re-  
14      imbursement under the terms and conditions of this Act.

15      (c) AUDIT.—All funds paid out under this Act are  
16      subject to audit by the Inspector General of the Depart-  
17      ment of Justice and abuse or misuse of such funds shall  
18      be vigorously investigated and prosecuted to the full extent  
19      of Federal law.

20      (d) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—All funds paid out  
21      under this Act must supplement, and may not supplant,  
22      State or local funds used for the same or similar purposes.

